

NOTES AND MEMORANDA

Members' Meetings

THE programme of Members' Meetings includes the following lectures and discussions :

Tuesday, October 22nd, at 5.15 p.m.
"Eutelegensis: Objections and Criticisms Considered." *Speaker* : Mr. Herbert Brewer.
Chairman : Sir Humphry Rolleston, Bt., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., M.D., D.Sc., LL.D.

Tuesday, November 19th, at 5.15 p.m.
"Voluntary Sterilization: The Work of the last Two Years." *Speakers* : From the Joint Committee on Voluntary Sterilization. Names to be announced later. *Chairman* : R. Langdon-Down, Esq., M.B.

Tuesday, December 17th, at 5.15 p.m.
"Some Attempts to Raise the Birth-rate." *Speaker* : Mr. David V. Glass, B.Sc.(Econ.).
Chairman : Mrs. Eva M. Hubback, M.A.

Tuesday, January 21st, 1936, at 5.15 p.m.
"The Physiology of Fertility in Man and Monkey." *Speaker* : Dr. S. Zuckerman.
Chairman : Dr. Julian S. Huxley.

Tuesday, March 17th, 1936, at 5.15 p.m.
An address (title to be decided later) on the eugenic implications of the Merseyside inquiry. *Speaker* : D. Caradog Jones, M.A.
Chairman : A. Bradford Hill, D.Sc.

Tuesday, June 16th, 1936, at 5.15 p.m.
"An Investigation of the Supposed Decline in National Intelligence." *Speaker* : Dr. R. B. Cattell. *Chairman* : Professor R. A. Fisher, F.R.S.

All the meetings will take place at the Rooms of the Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.1.

Work of the Propaganda Department

DURING the past few months the "exhibition" work has entered upon a new phase, the Society's exhibit having been shown four times to a rather different public from that which usually goes to health exhibitions.

At the Royal Aldershot Show and Exhibition, which was held from July 3rd to 6th, we hired a tent in the main row of the Trades Exhibition, which had mostly to do with

horses and dogs. The public that attended was composed of people who were interested in animals as well as in the Aldershot Command's entries. It is pleasant to record that the exhibit gave rise to a considerable amount of favourable comment, and attracted larger and larger numbers of people as the week went on. Finally, after the "Musical Ride" on Saturday, the officers came in and there was a continual stream of people who wished to see various parts of our exhibition. The Military were particularly interested in the pedigree of the Dan Godfrey family. Before the general public was admitted to the tent, the groundsmen and all the attendants came, and the officer commanding the Show suggested that next year we should have a larger tent and a more prominent position.

Local Authorities from all over the country sent their medical officers of health, and other delegates, to the Royal Sanitary Institute's Congress and Exhibition held at Bournemouth from July 15th to 20th. Many distinguished people visited the *Society's* stand, and made inquiries about obtaining the exhibit for Health Weeks in the future. By special request, I gave a demonstration to some of the medical officers, and at the end one of them said, "You have a lovely show and I am deeply interested." I also spoke at the Conference of Health Visitors, and at the garden party given for the Bournemouth Branch of the College of Nursing.

At the express request of the Birmingham and District Professional Nursing and Public Health Association, a "Professional Nurses and Hospitals Exhibition" was held in Birmingham from September 2nd to 6th. The people who came to it were doctors, dentists, or professional nurses; there were very few members of the general public. It was a useful occasion for bringing our exhibit before the notice of the nursing, midwifery and public health organization, which is holding a conference and exhibition next year at the University of London.

The Leicester Jubilee Year Home Life

Exhibition, from September 4th to 21st, was a trade exhibition, but the Leicester Health Committee had arranged a special section for health associations. The Exhibition lasted for very nearly three weeks, and a tremendous number of people came from all over the country. On one Saturday afternoon 26,000 passed the turnstiles. The *Society's* stand was constantly crowded, and many of those who had seen it once came back again bringing friends to see the exhibit. I gave three special lectures, which were arranged by the Health Committee.

Finally, a word about the Eugenics Alliance. This organization, which was foreshadowed in the last issue of the *REVIEW* (page 147), is now in being, and the preliminary circulars are going out. From the response which has been already received it seems that people are interested in bringing a knowledge of eugenics to the less scientifically-minded sections of the public.

H. POCKOCK.

Population Problems in United States

THE Conference on Population Studies in Relation to Social Planning, which was held in Washington last May under the auspices of the Population Association of America, concentrated upon two main subjects: differential reproduction and internal migration. The ground had been prepared by recent studies of the vital statistics of urban social classes carried out by the Public Health Service, studies of fertility and contraception sponsored by the Millbank Memorial Fund, the review of differential reproduction in the United States in *Dynamics of Population* by Lorimer and Osborn,* regional studies (especially of the South) by Odum, Vance, Woofter and others, and the survey of population redistribution sponsored by the Social Science Research Council. These scientific studies had been directly related to certain Government activities, particularly (1) the formation of a National Resources Board and State Planning Boards, (2) developments directly affecting the distribution of population, which have included

subsidence homesteads, rural rehabilitation, and submarginal land purchase, recently re-organized under the leadership of Dr. G. R. Tugwell, one of the active participants in this Conference, (3) the co-ordination, by the Tennessee Valley Authority, of water, power, industrial, agricultural and social developments in one area (which was represented in the Conference by Dr. F. W. Reeves), and (4) other "new deal" policies and experiments.

It was the predominant view of the Conference that efforts directed towards the development of scattered rural communities on a subsidence basis were likely to prove futile; and that many of the alleged advantages of such development were illusory. On the other hand, there were marked advantages in the establishment of new suburban communities in the neighbourhood of large industrial centres, as well as of new industrial areas in some previously undeveloped regions. The existence of wide variations in standards of living, educational efficiency, and reproductive rates in different parts of the country, above all the association of high fertility with low economic levels and inferior educational opportunities, constituted a serious weakness in the national life. Efforts directed towards raising standards of living in backward rural areas and equalization of educational opportunities were thus clearly called for, both for immediate social reasons and their ultimate effect on differential fertility.

Variations in fertility among urban social classes were found to be directly related to variations in the use of effective contraceptives, and the Conference recognized and accepted the obvious implication of this fact. It also agreed that measures for safeguarding the prosperity of the agricultural population, in view of the high fertility almost universal in farming communities, was a corner-stone of population policy, for it was essential that such communities should attract energetic young people and provide a desirable environment for farm children.

One important decision of the Conference was to set up a subcommittee to make recommendations upon the teaching of

* See *EUGENICS REVIEW*, 1935, XXVI, 292.

matters connected with population problems in universities, colleges and secondary schools. The instruction at present provided in this field rests largely on a doctrinaire basis, and is practically out of touch with the developments that have been brought about by current and recent research. Population studies must be recognized as a fundamental discipline in the movement towards social planning.

Professor Henry Pratt Fairchild, founder and former president of the Population Association of America, described the rapid advances that had been made in the field of population studies during the four years of this Association's existence. He informed the Conference that the American National Committee of the International Population Union had been reconstructed as a committee of the Population Association of America. The following officers were elected for the coming year: Louis I. Dublin, president; Raymond Pearl, first vice-president; Warren S. Thompson, second vice-president; Frank Lorimer, secretary. The Association office, 308 Victor Building, Washington, D.C., is now publishing *Population Literature*, a quarterly bibliographical review covering publications in this field in all countries.

Population Pressure in the Pacific

SIR RAPHAEL W. CILENTO, Director-General of Health and Medical Services for the State of Queensland, in the course of an address on "Some Problems of Racial Pressure in the Pacific," delivered before the British Medical Association at its annual meeting in Melbourne, put forward the view that the future of Australia lay between immigration or ultimate invasion.

The rapid fall in the birth-rate, he said, the declining proportion of youth, and with it the declining proportion of potential mothers, were all correcting the disparity between population, production, and consumption in all countries except Italy, Russia and Japan. This should be the natural and desirable solution, unless it created the conditions for a new conflict with or between those other powers, and a loss of frontiers and culture.

The population of Japan represented four persons to the acre of arable land, and was increasing. Birth-control lagged always a generation behind the problem it hoped to solve, and to cope with the surplus population emigration would need to reach the fantastic figure of one million a year. It thus appeared inevitable that, granted a persistence of the present trends, the population of Japan proper would steadily increase to a figure of 113,239,000 in 1967, by which time England and America, and with them Australia, would have reached their period of decline. This was a situation to be feared both in the interests of the countries immediately concerned and of the world in general.

In Australia the decline in the birth-rate was tending, said Sir Raphael, towards disaster. Australia could not preserve her frontiers unless its people effectively occupied the land it claimed. The population figures were most disturbing in respect of natural increase. The Australian birth-rate to-day was one of the lowest in the world; and the natural increase in 1931 was only half of that in 1891. Whereas the population that Australia could support had been estimated at sixty million, the actual peak would probably not exceed 8,500,000, unless a radical change took place in the trend of the birth-rate.

Population in the United States

ACCORDING to the United States Census Bureau, the percentage of childless couples, which at the last United States census in 1930 was 31, is increasing. This estimate applies only to what are called "normal families"; the percentage of childlessness is greater if divorced families or families broken up by death are included.

In 1930, the normal group included 23,352,990 couples, of whom 7,447,328 were childless. The average family was smaller in urban than in rural districts, and the percentage of childless couples was 34.8 in the towns and 25 in the country. It was also estimated that the percentage of childlessness was greater in the negro than in the white population.

International Neurological Congress

AMONG the subjects discussed at the International Neurological Congress was the heredity of epilepsy. Professor Jean Abadie was emphatic that this is an acquired and not a constitutional disorder. In thus repudiating any hereditary basis for epilepsy he was in complete disagreement with Dr. Klaus Conrad, who had examined 258 pairs of twins, and found such concordance between monozygotic twins—in 21 out of 30 pairs both twins were epileptic—that he regarded the hereditary nature of epilepsy as certain. Various other speakers touched on the problem, the majority conceding a place to hereditary factors, but regarding the bodily changes in this condition as more profitable for study.

Dr. Otto Maas reported some valuable observations on the families of patients with the rare disease myotonia atrophica. By careful examination he had established the presence of minor degrees of the condition in relatives who would ordinarily pass for healthy. Dr. Hugh Garland, Dr. Loewy, Dr. M. Goldstein, Dr. Stone, Mr. Alexander and Mr. Levin were others who reported clinical studies in familial disease. Dr. Aubrey Lewis, in a paper published in this issue on page 213, discussed the contribution of genetics to the study of functional syndromes occurring in organic disease of the central nervous system.

Abortion Laws in Norway

ACCORDING to the *Internationales Arztlisches Bulletin* (May and June 1935, p. 78) the Norwegian Government Commission on the reform of the abortion laws has now issued its report. The *Bulletin* bases its information on an article in the Oslo journal *Arbeiderbladet*, which states that six of the eight members of the Commission favoured the termination of pregnancy on social and humanitarian grounds, and on the recommendation of two medical practitioners, one of whom must hold a hospital appointment. One of the two remaining commissioners has submitted a report which also favours the legalization of abortion on these grounds,

but by a different procedure. The other is strongly opposed to any change in the present law.

The *Arbeiderbladet* further states that the Commission recommended that the Government should modify the penalty now in force—namely, penal servitude—pending changes in the law. Two of the commissioners, however, did not favour immediate action, and suggested that the proposed revisions should not be considered until next year.

F. W. S. B.

Les Jardins Ungemach

THE Gardens of Ungemach, Strasbourg, to which reference has already been made in these columns (July 1933, pages 91 and 105), have recently issued a propaganda poster, of which Mrs. Grant Duff has kindly supplied the following translation :

The foundation of the "Gardens of Ungemach" has been designed for eugenic ends. Its purpose is to favour the development of valuable elements of society by helping them to progress more rapidly than the rest. To attain this object it proceeds by carefully choosing young couples in good health and letting out to them at a modest rental one of the houses in the "Gardens of Ungemach," during the period in which their families are growing.

This garden city, built in a delightful district on the outskirts of Strasbourg, has been designed down to the smallest detail to offer the most favourable conditions of development to the families which occupy it. The experiment, which has been carried out for eleven years, has had a number of good results of which the following are the chief :

I

A BIRTH-RATE VERY SUPERIOR TO THE FRENCH BIRTH-RATE

Summary Comparison

Birth-rate of the town of Strasbourg	14	per 1,000 inhabitants
Birth-rate of France	16.3	" "
Birth-rate of the Gardens of Ungemach	29	" "

Exact Comparison

At Strasbourg :

1,000 married women between the ages of 20-45 give birth to	90 children.
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In the Gardens of Ungemach :

1,000 married women between
the ages of 20-45 give birth
to 128 children.

II

CHILDREN TALLER AND HEAVIER THAN THE
AVERAGE

<i>Weight.</i>	Average for the Maternity School of Gardens of Ungemach. kilos.	Average for the French Maternity Schools (after Nobécourt). kilos.	Average for the German National Schools (after von Cammerer and von Pirquet). kilos.
Boys of 4 years	19.300	14.300	16.500
" 5 "	19.500	15.900	18.000
Girls of 4 "	18.575	13.900	15.700
" 5 "	19.450	15.200	17.000
<i>Height.</i>	cm.	cm.	cm.
Boys of 4 years	108	97	99
" 5 "	109	103	104
Girls of 4 "	104	96	98
" 5 "	113	102	103

III

GENERAL HEALTH SUPERIOR TO THE AVERAGE

The health of the City is reflected in the table
of mortality of its children and adolescents :

Age Groups.	Percentage of Deaths.	
	At Strasbourg.	At the Gardens of Ungemach.
	inhabitants	inhabitants.
0-1 year ...	6.99 per 100	0.09 per 100
1-2 " ...	1.46 "	0.02 "
2-3 " ...	0.53 "	0.00 "
3-4 " ...	0.66 "	0.02 "
4-5 " ...	0.08 "	0.00 "
5-10 " ...	0.21 "	0.00 "
10-15 " ...	0.10 "	0.02 "

These averages apply to the years 1926 to 1934.

IV

The level of tidiness and cleanliness is superior
to the average in the same class.

A committee is charged with the duty of
ascertaining this level in the families which apply
for admission to the Gardens of Ungemach.
Every year the same committee ascertains the
level among the families who inhabit the City.
There is a marked difference between the two.

Years.	Level before Admission into the City.	Level after Admission into the City.
1932	7.7	9.5
1933	7.6	9.7
1934	7.8	9.5

The City raises the level of tidiness and cleanli-
ness in the families it shelters.

By helping interesting families to develop
themselves more rapidly than the others, *The
Gardens of Ungemach* increase the number of
valuable elements in the Society of to-morrow
and contribute in this way to guide human
evolution towards a more rapid ascent.

More detailed information is supplied by the
Secretariat of the Gardens of Ungemach—2 rue
des Iris, Strasbourg, France.

Eugenics in Brazil

For the following account of provisions for
eugenic legislation included in the new
constitution of Brazil, promulgated on July
16th, 1934, we are indebted to Dr. Renato
Kehl, of Rio de Janeiro.

The relevant section is Article 138,
according to which the states and munici-
palities, under the terms of their respective
laws, are made responsible for creating and
co-ordinating the services required for the
care of mental invalids, stimulating eugenic
education, supplying maternal and infant
welfare services, assisting large families,
protecting youth against "any and all
exploitation, as well as against physical,
moral and intellectual neglect," and adopting
legislative and administrative measures de-
signed to limit infant mortality and mor-
bidity and the spread of infectious diseases.
They are also expected to organize the
teaching of mental hygiene and "encourage
the struggle against social poisons."

Article 145 deals with the "pre-nuptial
examination," and provides for the presenta-
tion by those who wish to get married of
evidence of physical and mental health,
"taking into consideration the regional con-
ditions of the country." The significance of
this saving clause is not quite clear, but it
probably means only that the operation of
the Article in question is restricted to those

parts of the Republic in which its observance can be enforced without too much difficulty. The paper by Dr. C. P. Blacker, published on page 191, discusses some of the problems involved in such legislation.

Sexual Reform

THE Sexological Group (formerly the British section) of the World League for Sexual Reform announces the following programme of lectures. November 5th, 1935, Mr. Norman Haire on "Sex and the State"; December 3rd, 1935, Mrs. Janet Chance "On being one's Sexual Self"; January 7th, 1936, Mr. P. R. Kimber on "Sexual Reform within the Law"; February 4th, 1936, Mrs. Dora Russell (subject to be announced later); and on March 3rd, 1936, Mr. A. K. C. Ottaway on "Sex in Schools." These lectures will be given at Transport Hall, Smith Square, Westminster, London, S.W.1, and all are announced to begin at 8 p.m. A charge of one shilling will be made for admission, except to members of the Group, who will be admitted free. The programme states that this Group is not connected, directly or indirectly, with any political party, and should not be identified with any set of political views. Persons of all shades of political opinion are eligible for membership, as long as they are in favour of the Group's aims.

Italian Birth-rate

ACCORDING to the latest figures there is still no interruption in the tendency to decline in the Italian birth-rate. During the first seven months of this year the excess of births over deaths was 226,170; in the corresponding period of 1934 it was 253,805. On July 31st the population of Italy was estimated at 43,316,000.

Birth-control

DURING a recent visit to Russia, in connection with the International Physiological Congress, and to Scandinavia and England, Dr. Eric Matsner, Medical Director of the American Birth Control League, made some interesting observations on the problems of

birth-control and the effects of its practice in those countries.

In Russia, he said, birth-control received both governmental sanction and co-operation; yet in spite of legalized contraception and abortion the birth-rate remained one of the highest prevailing in civilized countries. It was evident that birth-control did not mean race suicide.

Dr. Matsner recalled Sir Kingsley Wood's recent statement that the outstanding public health problems in our own country were maternal mortality and cancer. In the United States, he said, maternal welfare was regarded as the major public health problem, and supporters of birth-control in that country were convinced that with proper medical supervision, contraception and spacing of births, the chief hazards of motherhood could be obviated. The movement was based not on neo-Malthusianism, but on eugenics. In the absence of organizations specially designed to disseminate birth-control information throughout society, there was a tendency for the practice of birth-control to be most widely spread among the biologically best-endowed persons—in other words, those who should actually be encouraged to have more children. The object of the birth-control movement was so to distribute the practice of birth-control as to make it eugenic instead of dysgenic in effect. Information on contraception was given at 165 clinics associated with the American Birth Control League; and contraceptive methods were being taught in forty-five class A American medical schools.

Elections to the Society

THE following have been elected Fellows (starred) and Members of the *Eugenics Society* during the past quarter:

F. E. Board, Esq.	*T. C. S. Morrison-
Mrs. Barbara Budd.	Scott, Esq.
Dr. Esther Carling, M.D.	*R. G. Morton, Esq.
(J.P. Oxon.)	Lt.-Cdr. O. H. Shat-
J. P. Carvell, Esq.	tock, R.N.
Thomas Kinvig, Esq.	Dr. Frank Swoboda.
James Walter Lucas,	S. H. Tan, Esq.
Esq.	Mrs. Tipping.
Victor Mallet, Esq.	*F. Yates, Esq., M.A.
John Mathews, Esq.	